



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

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25/10/2022

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #49

In response to NSW Health's recent announcement to relax COVID-19 pandemic control in the community, we are making the following adjustment to our current COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

1. PPE downgrade for staff from Tuesday 25/10/2022

- All staff to wear a surgical mask covering their nose and mouth while indoors in the facility.
- Staff will upgrade PPE requirement at the direction of facility manager in response to newly identified exposure risks or when performing high risk tasks.

2. Conditions of entry to ANHF Nursing Homes:

- Visitors must not enter a RACF at all if they:
 - Have **COVID-19 symptoms**.
 - Are a household or close contact. These people must comply with the directions in the **NSW Health Household and Close Contact Guidelines** and must not visit a RACF for at least 7 days after the last person in their house had a positive COVID-19 test.
 - Are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7 days.
- Visitors should provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) result taken within 24 hours or PCR result taken within 72 hours before entry. We accept a photo showing your name, date and time of test, and the test kit showing negative result as evidence. ***Please note our RAT stock from the government meant to prioritise for residents and staff use. We will need to cease supplying free RAT kit for visitor when the stock is depleting.***
- All visitors must wear at least a **surgical mask** over their nose and mouth and follow direction of the facility staff while visiting indoors.
- Visit should occur in the resident's single room or facility designated area. Wherever possible, the visit should be in an outdoor area with good airflow or ventilation if weather permits.
- Fire Brigade, Ambulance staff and police are emergency service providers who are not classified as visitors and are not required to undertake a RAT prior to entry.
- People who are providing a service to the resident (including a health or other professional service) are not counted as a visitor.

For our updates during COVID-19, please visit our website www.anhf.org.au.

- Exemptions will be granted by Facility Manager to residents require essential care or End-of-Life visits after risk assessment subject to the visitors' agreement to follow additional risk mitigation measures such as enhanced PPE (N95, Face Shield, Gown and Gloves).

3. Residents leaving the facility

- Facilities will ensure that residents are provided with surgical masks when leaving the facility, for a short walk, for medical appointments, attending family gatherings and/or other outings.
- Residents should not leave the facility if they have **COVID-19 symptoms** until they have had a RAT or PCR test and have received a negative result.
- Persons accompanying residents to go out is responsible for helping the residents to avoid attending gatherings with un-vaccinated persons and at high-risk places such as overcrowded restaurants and public toilets during outings. It is strongly advised that residents to attend gatherings in open space places such as parks to chat and eat take-away foods. Sightseeing in car ride has low COVID-19 exposure risk. Using clean table and chair far away from public and un-vaccinated people in a restaurant can also be considered as a measure to lower COVID-19 exposure risk.
- It is recommended that residents who leave the facility to attend a family gathering or event undertake RAT on Day 1, 2, 3 after their return and remain in their room during this time. If they develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they should immediately be isolated and have a PCR and influenza test. If their RATs are negative, then they can leave their room but need to wear masks for the rest of the week. Residents will be required to stay in their rooms for the full week if they are not complying with the mask wearing rule.
- Testing for COVID-19 will not be conducted for residents that have recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 28 days.

4. Communication

- We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to all outbreak situation. The nursing home may need to take swift response to newly identified exposure risks, the visiting conditions may change in short notice and vary from one nursing home to another. In these circumstances, we will use other means such as telephone call or SMS to contact you, in addition to email at times of urgency.
- Washing hands in line with the “5 moments for hand hygiene” and maintain 1.5 metres social distancing or meeting in open well ventilated areas are
- Please do not hesitate to contact our Facility Managers if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua
General Manager, Care Services